

DELEGATE BAMBERGER: I think there is obvious logic for allowing a municipal corporation to have a different requirement of residency, because of the mobility of population, the smaller size of the geographic area of municipalities, and the nature of the issues of the municipalities which would tend not to be the subject of mass media, of television and of the state-wide newspapers.

I see considerable logic behind the requirement that one might be required to live longer in a municipality. I think also, as we discussed before, there is some logic to the idea that people who own taxable property but do not reside in municipalities should be allowed to vote. I can defend those deviations from a state-wide practice on logical grounds that are applicable to municipalities, but except for the suggestion of experimentation which Delegate Gullett has stated, I see no reason why the age to vote should be lower in a municipality than it is in any other part of the State.

If the object is experimentation, then perhaps we shall allow the municipalities to state either a higher or lower age, and I can see some argument for the proposition that the municipality should be able to state a higher age, particularly in those municipalities which are college towns, although I do not think that is the problem because I do not think anyone would say to us that the student who comes there only to go to school is a resident.

I do think we would introduce considerable confusion into the laws if we allow municipalities to enfranchise eighteen, seventeen and sixteen year olds and down as far as you want to go. People would understand that they are voters in some elections but not in others.

Unless someone can point to some compelling reasons why the issues in a municipal election are different, so different from the issues in any other statewide election that we should allow people younger than nineteen to vote, I hope we would support the principle of uniformity with respect to age.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Koss, do you desire to speak to the amendment to the amendment?

DELEGATE KOSS: Mr. Chairman and fellow delegates, the reason that the majority Committee Report does include a provision allowing this flexibility of the municipalities was just because the point was made to the Committee and the Com-

mittee found it persuasive, that municipalities should be permitted the opportunity to explore new procedures, that these were controlled, and that municipalities were rather small geographic areas, and it was very easy for all the citizens to be aware of what decisions were being decided by their government, and if the municipalities wanted to lower the voting age, they should be permitted to do so.

The whole Committee Recommendation is in a sense a balance between the recognized need for uniformity and the recognized need for the localities to decide the issues that were important to them.

The Committee felt the municipalities should be allowed this leeway in voter age.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any delegate desire to speak in favor of the amendment?

*(There was no response.)*

If not, the Chair recognizes Delegate Gullett.

DELEGATE GULLETT: I submit again that my amendment solves the problem of both Mr. Bamberger and Delegate Koss. If you will notice my wording, it does the same thing as Delegate Koss', but it is in the reverse direction.

The majority would say they would provide a minimum voting age, to lower the voting age. I say they cannot establish it at more than nineteen years, and I point out that the General Assembly, if some municipalities are allowing thirteen-and-a-half-year-olds to vote, can step in and establish a minimum age of nineteen years by general law. They cannot establish a minimum age of twenty. They could step in and control the situation. This amendment allows total flexibility and control by the state.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegate desire to speak in favor of the amendment to the amendment?

*(There was no response.)*

If not, the Chair recognizes Delegate Koss.

DELEGATE KOSS: I have to rise and disagree with Delegate Gullett. The way I read it, the general law would have no authority to step in except by constitutional amendment in terms of the age.

Am I wrong in that?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gullett.

DELEGATE GULLETT: You are wrong.